

**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



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CHAIRMAN CROPP

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: APR -4 2005

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Amendment Act of 2005"

REFERENCE: Draft Legislation to be Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the District's budget and financial plan. No additional staff or resources will be required. All costs for Board operations need to be absorbed by the District Department of Health (DOH). By expanding the existing licensing practices to include a new population of allied health practitioners the Health Occupations Regulation Fund could achieve an estimated annual increase of \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually. This amount is dependent on the size of the population willing to license themselves in the City of Washington D.C.

Background

The proposed legislation establishes a Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to regulate audiologists, hearing clinics and clinicians, hearing and aural rehabilitation practices, communicologists, language pathologists, logopedists, speech and language clinics and clinicians, speech pathologists, speech therapists or any other audiological or speech-language pathology person or entity.

The Board will immediately expand the existing application and licensing practices used for other medical professionals to the new population of health care practitioners they regulate.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2005 budget or the Mayor's proposed FY 2006 through FY 2009 budget and financial plan. The application fee will be \$65 and the license fee will be \$111. DOH estimates the population of speech pathologists to be approximately 200 persons, and audiologists at 100 persons. Some existing speech and audio pathologists may elect not to license. The table in Figure 1 presents a conservative estimate of the amounts that could be achieved based on the implementation of the proposed legislation and subsequent actions by the Board.

Figure 1.

Estimated Increase to the Financial Plan					
(\$ in 000s)					
FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	5 - Year Total
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$250

All amounts collected will be deposited into the Health Occupations Regulation Fund¹ which will make them available until fully expended without fiscal year limitations.

¹ Established by D.C. Official Code Title 7 § 733 *et sequitor*, effective October 3, 2001, and administered by the District Department of Health.